

Filed for intro on 01/31/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 571
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach Jeff Fisher and the 1999 AFC
Champion Tennessee Titans.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to honor those successful sports franchises that, as a result of their magnificent on-the-field achievements, are a great source of pride for all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the previously named Tennessee Oilers made their grand entrance onto the sports scene in Nashville in 1996 as this state's first entry in the prestigious National Football League; and

WHEREAS, Coach Fisher and the team endured a period of transition en route to the opening of the 1999-2000 season, which ushered in the dawn of a new era for the newly anointed Titans, replete with new uniforms and a new home, the state-of-the-art Adelphia Coliseum; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jeff Fisher and his Titans have parlayed this move into establishing a franchise that this year has become respected throughout the sports world as one of the preeminent franchises in the National Football League; and

SJR0571

00997847

WHEREAS, led by star running back Eddie George and quarterback Steve McNair on offense, and safety Blaine Bishop and end Javon Kearsse on defense, to name a few, the Titans handily defeated two of the NFL's best teams, the Rams and division rival Jaguars, on their way to a 13-3 regular season record; and

WHEREAS, in first-round playoff action against the Buffalo Bills, Titans fans bore witness to one of the most dramatic games in NFL history as Frank Wycheck's lateral to Kevin Dyson with 16 seconds left in regulation play enabled Dyson to race 75 yards for the winning score, as the Titans "corralled" the Bills 22-16; and

WHEREAS, this "Miracle in Music City" was witnessed by fans throughout the sports world, as stunned but joyous Tennessee fans celebrated this Titanic win over the equally shocked Bills; and

WHEREAS, in round two of the playoffs, the Titans hit the road for the RCA Dome in Indianapolis to take on Peyton Manning and the Colts; the Tennessee defense stymied Indy and their "Big Three" of Manning, Edgerrin James and Marvin Harrison, en route to a 19-16 "shoeing" of the Colts, while Eddie George galloped for 162 yards on offense; and

WHEREAS, the AFC Championship Game against rival Jacksonville was a battle for the ages as Coach Jeff Fisher's troops escaped rowdy Alltel Stadium with a "declawing" of the Jaguars, 33-14; and

WHEREAS, the victory was the third this season for the Titans over Jacksonville, a team many NFL experts called the "best in the NFL" this year, and propelled them into their first ever Super Bowl against the Rams; and

WHEREAS, more than 35,000 delirious fans greeted the victorious Titans at Adelphia Coliseum upon their return from Jacksonville, as owner Bud Adams and the team proudly displayed the Lamar Hunt Trophy, presented by Mr. Hunt and emblematic of the AFC champion; ironically, it was Mr. Adams and Lamar Hunt who, together, formed the American Football Conference in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Coach Fisher has made his mark on professional football during his brief tenure at the helm of the Titans with a career 48-41 record; his calm demeanor and ability to motivate his players are quickly earning him recognition as one of the best young coaching minds in all of football; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee fans from far and wide will be basking in the euphoria of the Titans inaugural season for many years to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby congratulate Coach Jeff Fisher and the 1999 AFC Champion Tennessee Titans football team, and extend to everyone associated with the team our best wishes for every future success, both on and off the gridiron.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.